

House Republican Press Release

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Adinolfi Votes to Protect Confidential Press Sources



Shield Law Would Prohibit Government from Compelling Journalists to Testify

HARTFORD – The state House of Representatives approved legislation last night that would shield journalists from being compelled by any branch of government from having to reveal information obtained or received in confidence in gathering, receiving, or processing information for potential communication to the public or the identity of the source of the information. Similar “shield” laws are currently on the books in 31 states, as well as Washington, DC.

The bill also protects non-confidential information the media possess from subpoena with an exception for information necessary to a pending investigation, prosecution, or civil action not otherwise available, and of interest to the public.

Provisions in the bill make information and the identity of a source obtained in violation of the bill inadmissible in any action, proceeding, or hearing before a judicial, executive, legislative, or other body.

Representative Al Adinolfi (R-Cheshire) co-sponsored the measure, which passed the House last night by a vote of 107-34 following a three hour debate.

“The ability of journalists to obtain and report information to the public through the media sometimes depends on the confidentiality of sources,” said Adinolfi. “It is critical that we protect the ability of journalists to report information that they obtain this way without the threat of a violation of that confidentiality, or the potential for criminal prosecution.”

The bill now heads to the state Senate for action there.